



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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RECORD 2006 COTTON CROP ANTICIPATED

NASHVILLE, August 11, 2006—Tennessee farmers are forecast to produce a record-shattering cotton crop this year, far surpassing last year's record by a substantial 128,000 bales. However, most other row crops in the State are not expected to fare as well, as seasonally dry, hot weather has held yield performance to about average levels. Tobacco yields, however, are likely to be up 100 pounds per acre from 2005. These probable outcomes are based on an August 1 survey of Tennessee farmers conducted by the Tennessee Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. State Director, Debra Kenerson stated, "Beyond the good fortune of cotton growers, other farmers have experienced only hit-and-miss showers this summer and see only fair-to-good yield prospects for soybeans and corn." She further pointed out, "Hay supplies are already tight in some areas, as livestock producers are having to provide supplemental feed to offset the lack of available grazing." The actual yield forecasts showed the following: **Corn**, 120 bushels per acre, down 10 bushels from a year earlier; **Cotton**, 863 pounds per acre, up 15 pounds from last year and the second highest yield on record; **Soybeans**, 36 bushels per acre, 2 bushels below the previous year; **Burley Tobacco**, 2,100 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from last year; and **Hay, except alfalfa**, 2.2 tons per acre, down 0.1 tons from last year.

COTTON PRODUCTION UP 11 PERCENT

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 1.25 million bales, surpassing last year's record by 128,000 bales. Cotton yields are expected to average 863 pounds per acre, up 15 pounds from a year ago and second only to 2004's record of 900 pounds. Producers expect to harvest 695,000 acres, up 9 percent from 2005. Timely rains, hot temperatures and the largest acreage since 1995, have led to this historic output. The crop recovered nicely from a rough start, as many producers had to re-plant due to cool May soil temperatures. Virtually all the acreage has set bolls and crop development is progressing at a normal pace.

SOYBEAN YIELDS DOWN SLIGHTLY

Soybean production is forecast at 39.2 million bushels, down 6 percent from last year. Soybean yields are forecast at 36 bushels per acre, 2 bushels below 2005. This average yield, if realized, is above the 10-year average of 33, but will be shy of the 5-year average of 37. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.09 million acres, down 10,000 acres from a year ago. Tennessee's soybean crop was planted by the middle of June and much of the crop was blooming and setting pods by August 1, a pace two full weeks ahead of normal. Producers have been diligently scouting fields and applying fungicides and insecticides, mostly as preventative measures. The majority of the early maturing varieties are rated in good-to-excellent condition, while late-planted full season and double cropped soybeans are suffering, and are rated very poor to fair.

CORN PRODUCTION TO PLUNGE 16 PERCENT

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 64.8 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year ago. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 120 bushels per acre, 10 bushels below 2005. Producers expect to harvest 540,000 acres for grain, down 9 percent from last year and the lowest since 1995. Four of the last 5 years, the State average corn yield has exceeded or equaled 130 bushels per acre. However, this year, dry, hot weather over much of the State's major production areas caused pollination problems and less than desirable maturity. Potential yields range from excellent in the Northwest, poor in lower middle Tennessee, and variable elsewhere depending on the effect of widely scattered showers.

LOWEST BURLEY PRODUCTION SINCE 1927

As of August 1, burley production is forecast at 29.4 million pounds, 14 percent below a year ago. This will likely plummet production to the lowest since 1927. Yields, however, are forecast to average 2,100 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from 2005 and the highest since 1994. Acreage for harvest is expected to amount to 14,000 acres, down 3,000 from 2005. Tobacco transplanting began on schedule in early May and was completed slightly ahead of the 5-year average by the end of June. Black Shank has caused moderate damage in a few areas of the State. Slightly less than half the acreage had been topped by August 1 and harvest had just begun. The standing crop is rated in mostly good condition. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 3,100 pounds per acre, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,700 pounds per acre, both up 100 pounds from 2005.

(OVER)

HAY PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO FALL

Hay production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 3.96 million tons, 7 percent below 2005. Yields are expected to average 2.2 tons per acre, down 0.1 tons from last year. Acreage is pegged at 1.8 million acres, a reduction of 50,000. The problem for this year's hay crop has been two-fold. First, wet spring weather caused overripe fields, which degraded quality and reduced quantity. As an alternative, a few farmers decided to store their hay as green chop. Second, this wet spell was followed by drought-like conditions in many areas of the State, contributing to poor growth and giving producers only slim hopes for second or third cuttings. As of the week ending August 4, nearly 40 percent of the State's pastures were rated in very poor-to-poor condition.

APPLE PRODUCTION UP ALMOST A THIRD

Apple production is estimated at 11.0 million pounds, up 29 percent from last year's production of 8.5 million pounds. Development has been progressing slightly ahead of the normal pace. Producer comments this year range from having a better than average crop with good quality, to complaints about fire blight and concerns over lack of rain.

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, AUGUST 1, 2006, WITH COMPARISONS							
Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2005	Indicated 2006	2005	Indicated 2006	2005	Indicated 2006
		Thousand		Number of Units		Thousand	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	Lbs	---	---	---	---	8,500	11,000
Corn for grain	Bu	595	540	130	120	77,350	64,800
Cotton ¹	Lbs	635	695	848	863	1,122	1,250
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	Tons	1,850	1,800	2.30	2.20	4,255	3,960
Peaches	Tons	---	---	---	---	2.0	1.7
Soybeans	Bu	1,100	1,090	38	36	41,800	39,240
Tobacco, All	Lbs	22.95	20.00	2,251	2,392	51,670	47,840
Dark fire-cured	Lbs	5.50	5.60	3,000	3,100	16,500	17,360
Burley	Lbs	17.00	14.00	2,000	2,100	34,000	29,400
Dark air-cured	Lbs	0.45	0.40	2,600	2,700	1,170	1,080
Winter Wheat	Bu	150	190	56	61	8,400	11,590
UNITED STATES							
Apples	Lbs	---	---	---	---	9,864,900	9,619,700
Corn for grain	Bu	75,107	72,091	147.9	152.2	11,112,072	10,975,740
Cotton ¹	Lbs	13,802.6	12,815	831	765	23,890.2	20,431.0
Hay, All	Tons	61,649	62,697	2.44	2.27	150,590	142,326
Peaches	Tons	---	---	---	---	1,184.55	1,053.80
Soybeans	Bu	71,361	73,935	43.3	39.6	3,086,432	2,927,634
Tobacco, All	Lbs	298.08	334.48	2,171	2,228	647,278	745,294
Dark fire-cured	Lbs	11.84	11.28	3,178	3,253	37,631	36,689
Burley	Lbs	100.15	104.00	2,031	2,099	203,383	218,300
Dark air-cured	Lbs	4.15	5.10	2,778	2,884	11,530	14,710
Winter Wheat	Bu	33,794	31,108	44.4	41.2	1,499,129	1,283,134

¹ Production in 480-Lbs net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.